Death of Indian students in USA

†*315. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of death of Indian students in USA are increasing;

(b) whether information regarding deaths and obtaining of the dead bodies is also being delayed;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to stop this;

(d) whether information is also being obtained from the concerned families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) In the recent past, three incidents have taken place in the US in which four Indian studenths have been killed. This US police, municipal and university authorities have fully cooperated in the investigation of the aforesaid cases. In all three cases, officials of the Embassy of India, Washington DC and relevant Consulates General promptly visited the concerned university and interacted with the university and government authorities, relatives and friends of the victims as well as the local students associations to learn about the circumstances in which the incidents took place, facilitate the offieial investigation and help organise the dispatch of the mortal remains of the victims to India.

Loan to farmers against NSC/KVP

*316. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank to provide loans to farmers through post offices agaisnt National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) in some States;

(b) if so, the States identified for the purpose; and

(c) by when the scheme would be operationalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Some Postal Circles of the Department of Posts have entered into a tie up with HDFC Bank for forwarding loan applications against the national Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patra to the aforementioned bank. The post office verifies the genuineness of the National Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patra before forwarding the loan applications to the HDFC Bank.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Details of Postal Circles which have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank and date of their Operationalization

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Date of operationalization of the scheme	Details of the scheme
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.10.2006	The scheme is operational in 27 Post Offices of Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle.
2.	Bihar	18.04.2006	The scheme is operational in 59 Post Offices of Bihar Postal Circle.
3.	Jharkhand	22.05.2007	The scheme is operational in 25 Post Offices of Jharkhand Postal Circle.
4.	Karnataka	04.08.2006	This scheme is operational in 423 Post Offices of Karnataka Postal Circle.
5.	Maharashtra	06.07.2007	The scheme is operational in 6 Post Offices of Maharashtra Postal Circle.
6.	Tamil Nadu	08.05.2007	The scheme is operational in 21 Post Offices of Tamil Nadu Postal Circle.

Proposals from Orissa for roads and bridges

*317. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation from Government of Orissa for the development of roads, bridges, etc. during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total number of proposals/projects received so far and action taken on them till date;

(c) whether Government has any time-bound programme to complete these pending proposals of Orissa; and

(d) the total amount spent on each proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa at various levels had represented to the Ministry during the last three years for development & maintenance of National Highways passing through the state and for taking up other state roads under centrally Sponsored Schemes. This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). The works relating to the National Highways are sanctioned based on their *inter-se*-priorities and availability of funds. The proposals also include development of NHs covered under various phases of National Highways Development Programme (NHDP). Statement indicating the action taken on the proposals on NHs received from the State Government with their status and amount spent is given in Statement-I (*See* below). Similar details in respect of State roads are given in Statement-II.